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CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Please amend the claims so that a complete listing of the currently pending claims reads as follows:

1.   (Cancelled)

2.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 24 wherein said step of powering on a second tier disk comprises:

determining if at least one first tier disk has adequate space to process a requested unit;

copying the requested unit from the second tier disk to the first tier disk if at least one first tier disk has adequate space; and

generating adequate space on the first tier if at least one first tier disk does not have adequate space.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising:
determining if a first tier unit has become unpopular; and
transferring the unpopular first tier unit to a second tier disk.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 3 further comprising:
determining if the unpopular first tier unit has been modified; and
transferring only modified unpopular first tier units to the second tier.

5.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 24 wherein providing the first tier comprises assigning one or more of the disks to the first tier.

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6.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 24 wherein the first tier disks comprise high-performance hard drives.

7.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 24 wherein the second tier disks comprise low-power hard drives.

8.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 24 wherein the unit comprises at least one member selected from a group consisting of: a file, a portion of a file, a file system block, a combination of files, and a suitable subdivision of information.

9.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 24 wherein the popular unit comprises a unit meeting or exceeding a condition limit, and the unpopular unit comprises a unit not meeting the condition limit.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the condition limit is determined based on usage factors.

11-23. (Cancelled)

24.   (Previously Presented) A method of operating a RAID system, the method comprising:

providing a first tier of at least one disk, the first tier storing at least one popular unit;

providing a second tier of at least one disk, the second tier storing at least one unpopular unit;

powering on at least one first tier disk;

powering down the second tier;

determining whether a request for a unit requires processing on the first tier or second tier;

accessing the requested unit if the requested unit requires processing on the first tier; and

powering on a second tier disk to copy the requested unit from the second tier disk to a first tier disk, if the requested unit is stored on the second tier.

25.   (Previously Presented) A method of providing data storage on a multi-tiered disk system, the method comprising:

providing a RAID system, the RAID system including a first tier of at least one disk, the first tier storing at least one popular unit, and a second tier of at least one disk, the second tier storing at least one unpopular unit;

powering on at least one first tier disk;

powering down the second tier;

determining whether a request for a unit requires processing on the first tier or second tier;

accessing the requested unit if the requested unit requires processing on the first tier; and

powering on a second tier disk to copy the requested unit from the second tier disk to a first tier disk, if the requested unit is stored on the second tier.